

1 variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing
2 description. Accordingly, it is intended that the present invention embrace all such
3 alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the scope of the appended
4 claims.

5 What is claimed is:
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1. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
 - a television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
 - a display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top box;
 - an input device suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
 - a database operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a consumer; and
 - catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise.
2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.
4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a keyboard.

1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a
2 television display.

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4 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a high
5 definition television display.

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7 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
8 storage device situated within the set-top box, and further comprising a connection
9 to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to
10 the database.

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12 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
13 catalog server, coupled to the set-top box via a cable television connection.

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15 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a printer coupled to
16 the set-top box.

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18 10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving
19 updates to the database on a periodic basis.

1 11. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying
4 output from the set-top box;
5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
6 a storage device situated within the set-top box;
7 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the
8 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise
9 available for purchase by a consumer;
10 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;
11 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
12 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;
13 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
14 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog
15 of merchandise;
16 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the
17 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the
18 catalog of merchandise;
19 a cable modem coupled to a catalog server, to thereby download updates
20 of the catalog of merchandise to the database; and
21 a printer coupled to the set-top box.
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1 12. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:
2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;
3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying
4 output from the set-top box;
5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;
6 a cable modem coupled the programmed processor to access a catalog
7 server;
8 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis
9 a storage device situated within a catalog server accessible by the set-top
10 box using the cable modem;
11 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the
12 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise
13 available for purchase by a consumer;
14 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;
15 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
16 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;
17 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for
18 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog
19 of merchandise;

1 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the
2 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the
3 catalog of merchandise; and
4 a printer coupled to the set-top box.

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